

Draft Meeting Minutes

Frederick County Sustainability Commission

Wednesday November 17, 2010

3:00 pm

Third Floor Meeting Room, Winchester Hall, 12 E. Church Street, Frederick, MD

Present: Don Briggs, Steve Chafitz, Rich Maranto, Winifred Palmer, Fred Ugast, Mark Lancaster, Margie Lance, Lisa Gaver, Catherine McKalip-Thompson, Kim Roberts, Janice Wiles. Staff: Hilari Varnadore. Also, Lisa Orr, Kelly Goetz,

Excused Absences: Annmarie Creamer, Will Morrow

1. Call to Order and Welcome

Chairman Don Briggs called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

2. Administrative Items

Review and approval of October minutes. Fred made the motion to approve the minutes, Margie stated she felt Item #5 should have more wording and seconded the motion. Motion carried.

3. Commission Member Comments - None

4. Sustainability Office Updates

Tyler Harshman was introduced as the new CCC volunteer. Tyler will be a 40 hour/week volunteer from November 15, 2010 to November 11, 2011. He gave a brief bio of himself including his education background. Hilari showed an organizational chart of the OES staff, noting a new employee will be added next year. All positions except hers are grant funded.

5. Discussion regarding On-Farm and Commercial Composting in Frederick County

Colby Ferguson from the Office of Economic Development provided information on on-farm and commercial composting and noted zoning needs to be amended to allow this. Clippings, food waste/clean waste can be recycled back into composting materials. Compost material is an alternative to fertilizers. Compost is a valuable product and there is interest in the community. Environmental Compliance regulations are more restrictive than local regulations. Steve stated that since the Commission is a volunteer group they have no power to initiate regulations but can encourage County staff to move this along.

There was a recommendation and motion presented by Steve that stated that driven by business and community interest it was requested to create an informal working group to determine the interest of the Frederick County agricultural community in exploring the feasibility of on-farm and commercial composting. To begin this informal work group, we would like to request approval from the Board of County Commissioners to include FCG staff in composting discussions via our staff liaison in the Office of Environmental Sustainability. Fred seconded

the motion with amendments Margie noted the changes in the motion and seconded the motion. Motion carried.

6. Sustainability Commission Work Plan

Janice commented on watershed issues. Lisa noted there was an agriculture forum on Nov. 30 that included some good topics. Bob Black was in the audience and gave an update on the stink bug crisis and the various meetings being held to try to resolve this situation. Kim noted she met with the Frederick Bicycle Coalition and their work on finding suitable routes in the downtown area. Hilari stated she had been in contact with the Frederick News-Post in regards to their quarterly green publication and said they are seeking ideas from the Commission. It was noted the Green Home Challenge is on the web site.

7. Engaging the Community in Green Building

Faith Klareich, past Chair of the City of Rockville Commission on the Environment discussed her experience as a commission member educating and engaging the community in green building. She noted she has a 30 year career in energy efficiency. It is important to educate the community. She stated it took 3 years to update the zoning in Rockville. Their Commission researched projects throughout the City. It was necessary to make a list of reasons to go green. There were a lot of movements on the environment fronts and she went to a lot of community events to encourage the citizens to go green. It was a 7 year process and was a living process. Green building standards were recently adopted in Rockville.

8. Public Comments: None

9. Adjourn

Fred made a motion to adjourn, Winnie seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Minutes submitted by Fayne Lebherz